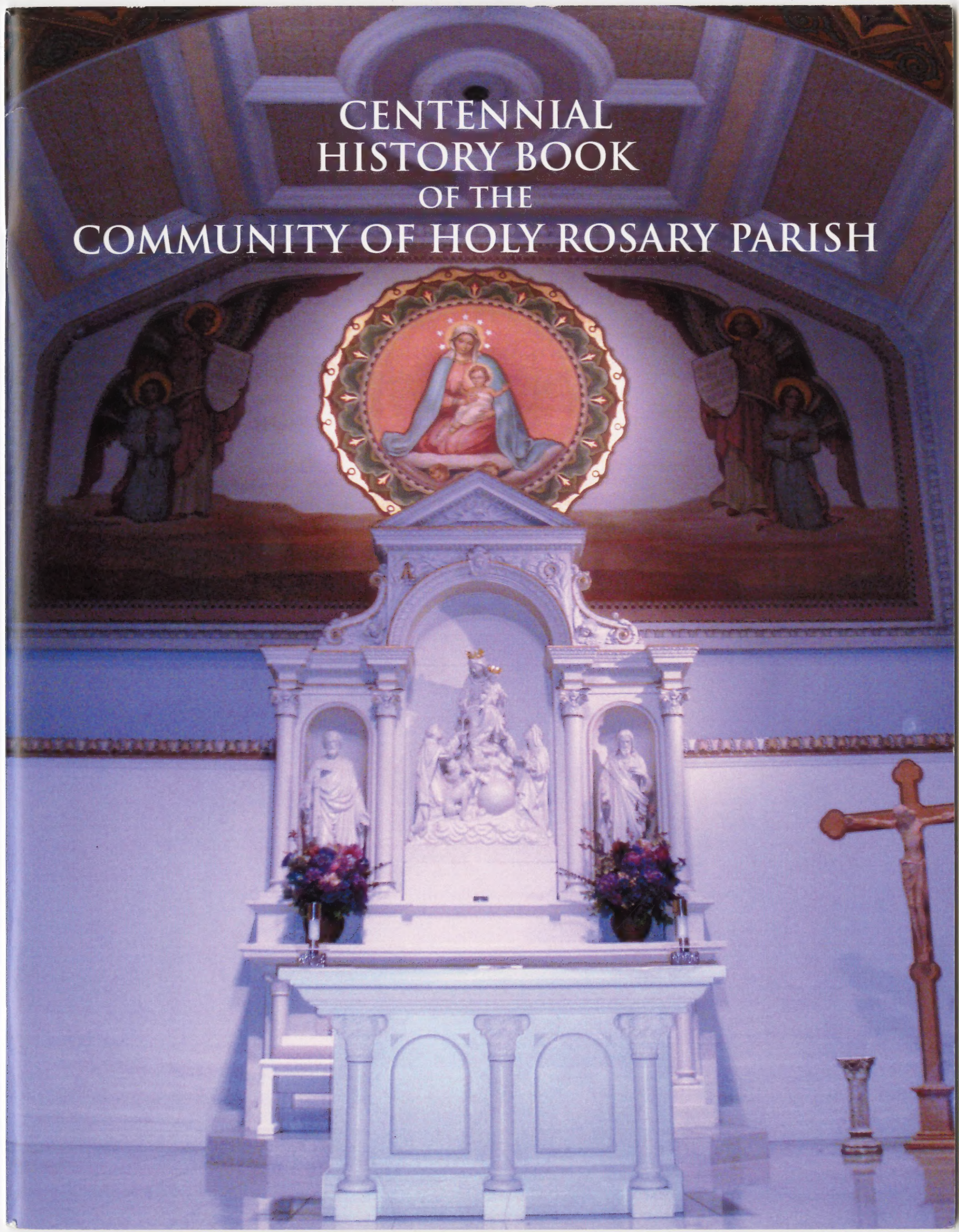


CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK OF THE COMMUNITY OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH

The Holy Father Benedict XVI

cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing to
Father Philip G. Racco, Pastor, and the Parishioners of
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Cleveland, Ohio
on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary
of the Dedication of the Church building
as a pledge of heavenly favours
November 9, 2009

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, die 20.8.2009

+ Féliz del Blanco Prieto
Archiepiscopus Eleemosynarius Apostolicus

Diocese of Cleveland
Cathedral Square

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 2009

My dear Friends at Holy Rosary Parish,

For 100 years you have faithfully given witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in your beautiful church building at Holy Rosary. It is with thanks to God and sincere gratitude to you that I greet you on this memorable anniversary.

Beginning with a much needed ministry to the Italian immigrants of Cleveland, Holy Rosary has grown in its vision to offer service to all of God's people in the community and surrounding area. In particular, your parish family boasts of a history filled with many good and generous members and leaders. I share your appreciation for the wonderful ministry of your former pastors, priests, lay ministers and the educational ministry of the consecrated religious women through the years. These good and faithful servants, relying upon the many gifts of your faith community, were essential to the vibrancy of your parish life for over a century. Through the leadership of your current pastor, Father Philip G. Racco, and those who assist him, there is no doubt that Holy Rosary will continue to be a vibrant Catholic presence in University Circle for many years to come.

In recognizing this anniversary, we recall that the foundation of our faith lies in and upon Jesus Christ alone. Your fidelity to that faith in Jesus Christ, your love of your families, and your dedication to the Church is an inspiration for all people in your neighborhood and this entire Diocese.

My hope is that the celebration of the 100th anniversary of your church building will be a time of great blessing and a time of renewal and evangelization. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and my promise of prayer as you mark this milestone in the history of your great parish. God bless you all and grant you His peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Richard Lennon

Bishop of Cleveland

1027 Superior Ave ❖ Cleveland, OH 44114-2560 ❖ (216) 696-6525 Ext 2030 ❖ Fax (216) 696-6547

Holy Rosary: *A Tradition To Be Shared*

12021 Mayfield Road • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216/421-2995

Dear Parish Family,

As I write this letter I am looking out my window at the new copper dome that graces the bell tower of our church building. I can only imagine the number of people who have looked up at the dome of the church over the past 100 years. Many glanced up on their way to Sunday Mass. Brides and grooms glimpsed skyward with excitement and nervousness on their wedding day. Parishioners gazed heavenward with sorrow in their hearts as they buried a loved one. Proud parents looked up through tears of joy as they brought their newborn child to be baptized. Our church building is not only the center focus of this old neighborhood but also the heart and the source of many precious memories for present and former parishioners.

In celebrating the 100th anniversary of the completion of the church building, I believe it is appropriate and fitting to first express a word of gratitude to all who have gone before us. Past generations sacrificed so much to create a beautiful worship space filled with inspirational church art. During these times of change, I also want to thank all those who worship Sunday after Sunday and fill this edifice with their faith, prayer, and song.

I commit myself to assist you in being the people of God who celebrate in a historic Church. It is Jesus in the Eucharist that we celebrate and it is the True Presence in the tabernacle welcoming our prayer and giving us aid in our trials. We are the soul of the parish building. The continued stewardship and dedication of present parishioners allows Holy Rosary to be a vibrant parish and a living example of faith that extends beyond the church walls.

Last, I thank all our benefactors and those who worked so diligently in preparing and aiding us in this Anniversary celebration. The generosity of Holy Rosary parishioners is just one more tradition that I am happy to say continues on in this community. I pray that it will continue for the next one hundred years.

May Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, bring all of us to a closer relationship with Jesus her Son and our Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Philip G. Racco

Father Philip G. Racco
October 24, 2009

Patrons

Michele and Thomas Ambrogio

Beverly Ann Battista

In Loving Memory of Anthony and Rose Battista

Deacon Bruce and Anna Battisa

In Loving Memory of Joseph and Margaret Battista

James R. Bindas

In Honor of Nancy and John Bindas

In Loving Memory of Suzanne Bindas

In Loving Memory of Marie DePalma Brigneli

Carol and Richard Browngardt

Nick and Patricia Capretta

In Loving Memory of Frank Corio

In Loving Memory of Maria Corio

In Loving Memory of Dr. Russell L. Corio

Adrienne D'Angelo

Mary D'Angelo

In Loving Memory of Alfredo and Giovannina DeMarco

In Loving Memory of DePenti/Gallitto Families

In Loving Memory of James A. DiCillo

In Loving Memory of James and Vera DiCillo

Fred and Maria Elena DiFrancisco

In Loving Memory of Domenico and Amelia DiGiambattista and Family

Pat, Ann and Gary DiNunzio

Karen P. DiNunzio

In Loving Memory of the Dottore Family

In Loving Memory of Celestino and Antonia Fatica

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fiorilli

Richard and Rita Gallitto

In Loving Memory of Judy Gregorio

Linda Hansen

Bonnie and Pete Kaczor

Lake View Cemetery Association

In Loving Memory of the Lanese/Minadeo Families

In Loving Memory of Sam Laurio

In Loving Memory of Sarah Mancino

Mary Grace Manocchio

Theresa Manocchio

In Loving Memory of Letitia and Joseph Marino

In Loving Memory of Pat and Lucy Marino

Grace McKibben

Judith Mickunas

In Loving Memory of Fortunato and Grace Pargoliti

James Pargoliti

The Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Program in Italian American Studies John Carroll University

Frank and Flo Rapposelli

In Loving Memory of Rapposelli/Gentile Families

In Loving Memory of Daniel J. Ryanx

In Loving Memory of Tony C. Tate

In Loving Memory of Robert A. Tate

Pete and Minnie Thomas and Maryann

Annamarie Tomaro

In Loving Memory of Charles and Lena Vitantonio and Family

HISTORY OF HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

VISION WITH FAITH, THE BEGINNING

America is the promised land of the Catholic Church. From this land of blessings, inspiration will arise, principles will be formulated [and] new and mysterious forces will be harnessed, which will regenerate the spirit of the Old World with an appreciation of liberty, brotherhood, and equality. The day will come when peoples of various cultures and nationalities, living in peace together, together bonded into a unity of a single country—America—will be able to express in their own tongue as well as in a common language their thanksgiving and praise to God whom they call "Father."

With remarkable foresight, Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini, speaking to the Catholic Club of New York in 1901 bespoke the destiny of the Church in America, and in a way, that of Holy Rosary Church, in Cleveland, Ohio. Bishop Scalabrini founded the order of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles in 1887 to minister to his fellow Italians who had immigrated to the United States. With the vision of a missionary, he saw beyond the restraints of the era immediately at hand. From a haven and source of spiritual strength for those immigrants of common backgrounds, Holy Rosary has evolved into a home for a population as nearly diverse as that within the universality of the Church itself.

The geographical and physical boundaries of what we know as "Little Italy" are invisible to the heterogeneous population that today comprise the congregation of Holy Rosary Church. It is made up of current residents, former residents, visitors from other city areas, as well as students, faculty and staff of Case Western Reserve University and other University Circle institutions. The congregation also includes patients and their families from around the world who come to Cleveland to undergo medical treatment at local health care facilities.

The evolution of Holy Rosary Church from one of exclusive Italian orientation to a mix of cultures took place slowly over the past 117 years. The need for a Church geared to the Italian immigrant first manifested itself in 1862. In that second year of the American Civil War, the first Italian immigrants in the Cleveland area settled around Woodland Avenue and East Ninth Street. By 1870, the vicinity of Ontario Street and Orange Avenue, S.E. became known as "Big Italy." The area in which Holy Rosary Church developed began to be populated in 1879. The economic depression in southern Italy brought approximately 37,000 Italians to the Uniteds States annually between 1881 and 1890. Those settling in the Cleveland area and in particular, in the Mayfield-Murray Hill area in the early years were primarily from Campobasso in the Molise region. They were mostly marble workers, stonemasons, and artisans skilled in lacework, embroidery, and garment making. One of the original settlers in the area was Joseph Carabelli, a Protestant from northern Italy. He was a marble craftsman who established his monument works on Euclid Avenue near Lakeview Cemetery. The area, because of the cemetery and the railroad line that ran through the neighborhood, was well suited to the marble business. The area, at that time, was known as the "East End" of the city. There was no Catholic Church within a three-mile radius of it. The early settlers, therefore, attended St. Anthony's Church on Central Avenue in downtown Cleveland, the first church to serve the city's Italian immigrants. Today, it is St. Maron's Church of the Maronite Rite.

By 1891, as the early wave of immigrants continued to increase, it became apparent that the needs of the various groups of Italians should be ministered to in their own locales. At that time the diocese of Cleveland had been in existence for 45 years, having been established in 1847. When the head of the diocese, Bishop Richard Gilmour, died, Monsignor Boff assumed his duties. Acting as administrator, he called upon Father Joseph Strumia, a Scalabrini father, to provide missions to the various Italian settlements in the diocese. In the area known as the East End, Father Strumia held a mission in a building known as D'Errico Hall located on Coltman Road and named after a local resident. Father Strumia reported to Monsignor Boff that he was well received by the residents and it was decided that he should remain in that area to organize a new parish. He was invited to stay in the Carabelli home and began to celebrate Mass in D'Errico Hall. On January 5, 1892, Father Strumia held a meeting with community leaders to plan fund-raising efforts to build a permanent church. During the fund-raising efforts, a temporary chapel was constructed on what is now the site of the current Montessori School building. The first Mass was held there on May 1, 1892. By February 1, 1892, $2,000 had been raised, and on February 27th Mr. Carabelli purchased the lot measuring 50 by 144 feet at the corner of Mayfield Road and East 120th Street where the temporary chapel was constructed. It was about this time that church records indicate that the parish was established and called Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. Church records indicate that the members of the founding committee consisted of Father Strumia, Joseph Carabelli, Jacob Krass, John Silveroli, and Michael Trivisonno. Mr. Carabelli was appointed the first "secretary" of the parish. In September of the same year, the Mayfield-Murray Hill area became a part of the city of Cleveland.

A contract with Mr. F. Hauch for the construction of the church building was finalized in June of 1892, and the cost of construction was $3,190.00. To help raise funds, the first Columbus festivities were held in October 1892. The parish was to serve all Italians living east of 79th Street. The cornerstone was laid on August 14, 1892. Due to illness,

All photos courtesy of The Western Reserve Historical Society.

Monsignor Boff was unable to preside at the ceremonies, and was represented by the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church. In a little more than three months, on November 20, 1892, the building was complete.

The first church building erected in 1892 at a cost of $3,190.

Father Strumia was succeeded by two more Scalabrini fathers who served as pastors of Holy Rosary. The first was Father Joseph Riva who was assigned to the parish on October 8, 1893 and resigned in February of 1894, with no explanation recorded. However, Father Riva's successor, Father Anthony Gibelli, alluded in his notes to personality and management conflicts between the pastor and certain councilmen who also resigned from their positions. Father Gibelli's notes referring to the councilmen, read in part, "....as they couldn't be bosses of the Church, and the pastor, they resigned."

Father Gibelli was apparently a very well liked priest receiving the affection of his parish, as well as the respect of church officials. Bishop Gilmour's successor, Bishop Horstman, spoke of Father Gibelli as the first Scalabrini priest to satisfy both the people and church officials. He served the parish for slightly more than 13 years. Under his pastorate, he began acculturation efforts for men in a newly constructed facility under the church's sacristy. His stated intention was to prepare the immigrants for "Americanization," and for obtaining citizenship. He arranged for the Ursuline Sisters from the East 55th Street convent, to teach catechism to the parish children in English. He also constructed a "pastoral residence," at a cost of $853.25, which was opened on November 6, 1896. He oversaw the installation of gaslights in the church that may have attracted more than the faithful when they were first lit on November 26, 1899. He also established various societies and sodalities in the parish. Among them was the first society for women, called the "Society of the Holy Rosary" established in 1896. In the same year he organized a similar society for men. The "Society of the Immaculate Conception" for young ladies was established in July of 1897.

Father Anthony Gibelli, pastor of Holy Rosary from 1894-1907.

In the spring of 1900, Father Gibelli became ill and returned to Italy to recuperate. During his absence, Father George Murphy administered the parish. It was at this time that the Alta House was opened to become a part of the social and educational life of the neighborhood. Through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller, and at the urging of his daughter, Alta, and his friend, Mr. Carabelli, the settlement was built, and opened in 1900. It greatly expanded on the original day nursery facilities that Mr. Carabelli had earlier organized on the building site.

Because of its unique geographical configuration, Little Italy, as a neighborhood, was, and is, synonymous with that of Holy Rosary as a parish. As such, it was growing as a parish, and it was teeming as a neighborhood, consisting of more than 1,000 families in the early 1900s. Residents had practically all amenities at hand, including some 28 family-operated grocery stores, three dry-good stores, three banks, at least six barbers, and several theatres, among other services. In the spirit of the Renaissance, arts and crafts galleries and studios now flourish in what would have been vacant buildings when most of these services were later abandoned as younger families moved to the suburbs. It was, however, in its early years a self-contained community, with its many service amenities, its church, a settlement house, and a public school; it was a village unto itself, possessed of a singular charm that remains, and attracts people today.

It was to that vibrant community that Father Gibelli returned in 1902. During that year he visited each household in the parish twice. The church of that time had its first pipe organ installed in 1902, and the women of the parish purchased new vestments to be used for the Christmas Eve mass of that year. By that time, as immigration continued, the number of parishioners was growing so fast that a larger church was necessary. The need was there despite the fact that a third Italian parish, St. Marion's, had been established nearby at Cedar Avenue and Fairhill Boulevard. Anticipating such a need, the parish bought the parcel of land, at Mayfield and Coltman Roads, next to the old church. Ground was broken there for the current church on June 29, 1905, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. The stonework was completed by October. Funds for the construction ran out, and when the basement was finished in 1906 it was roofed over to protect it from the elements, until construction could be completed.

However, Father Gibelli would not live to see its completion. He died suddenly while in New York City where he had gone for the dedication of a new church. After some disagreement between parishioners and the Scalabrini Order as to who would then assume administration of the

church, Bishop Horstman decided that he would appoint a diocesan priest to the parish.

In May 1907, Bishop Horstman appointed the Reverend Joseph Militello as pastor. Church records indicate that he was an exceptional preacher who attracted large crowds to hear his preaching. He set about the completion of the new church, and proposed a $40,000 loan, which Bishop Horstman thought would incur too much debt for the parish. In his request for the bishop's permission for such a loan, after $15,000 had already been expended on construction, Father Militello offered the following observation. The parish consisted of approximately 1,400 families; of whom only 600 were contributing members who had each promised a special offering of $6.00 a year to help pay off the loan. Total parish receipts, for the three years prior to construction were $1,068.48.

The Bishop started the subscription drive by contributing $100.00, expressing hope that the parishioners would also be generous in their support. Noting that he preferred that the building of a parochial school be a parish goal as well as the construction of a new church, he gave his official approval in July 1908 to procure a loan to complete the project.

The oldest living parishioner in the year 2007, Josephine Ritchie, 103 years of age, remembered being an eyewitness to the start of construction of the present church building. She recalled holding her father's hand and peering into the largest hole she had ever seen in her young life. After the loan was finally secured, building resumed and in the fall of 1908 the cornerstone was laid.

Mayfield Road and Holy Rosary Church in 1912.

The building was constructed in the Romanesque style, with a copper domed bell tower. A statue of the Madonna and Child graces the façade over the main entry, and is flanked along the roofline by statues of the Four Evangelists. The only entrance at the time was the main entrance on Mayfield Road. Over the main altar was a statue of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, with statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph on either side. The church provided seating for 500 worshipers. Correspondence of October 15, 1908 indicates that the Chicago office of the Daprato Statuary Company had billed the parish $955.00 for its new altar and $422.50 for its sanctuary railing. The church was solemnly dedicated on November 9, 1909 by the administrator of the diocese, Bishop Koudelka. At that time, the basement of the church was used as a chapel, and the old chapel building was converted into a recreation hall, complete with a stage and a "moving picture machine."

The official church report, "Status Animarum" prepared for diocesan records indicated that for the calendar year 1909, there were 525 baptisms, 185 first communions, 507 confirmations, 40 marriages, and 48 deaths and funerals. It is estimated that at that time there were approximately 10,000 residents in the area. The report further identifies the following active societies: Holy Rosary Ladies' and Holy Rosary Men's Societies; Third Order of St. Francis, Young Ladies' and Young Men's Societies, and the Holy Angels Society, all of which had a combined membership of 545 men and women. The Sunday and Holy Day Mass schedule was as follows: 6:30 a.m, 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:00 a.m. Church records for 1910, among other statistics similar to those of 1909, reported a significant increase in funerals, up from 48 to 89, with 66 of them for children. To the 1909 societies, St. Aloysius and St. Agnes were added, for a total society membership of 790 men and women.

CHARITY: A TIME OF NEED

As the new church building saw its second year, Father Militello was reassigned, and the Reverend Francis Haley succeeded him as pastor in 1911. Father Haley established several social services including a dispensary, a sewing school for girls, and a gym for boys. He helped the men of the parish to find jobs, and personally obtained $13,000 from other parishes to help pay off some of the parish debts. Father Joseph Nolan who served as pastor until 1920 followed Father Haley. During that time, most of the outstanding debts were settled through the raising of funds by various campaigns held throughout the years. In 1918, during the national outbreak of influenza, Father Nolan brought in Notre Dame Sisters to nurse the ill, as well as to provide food for the poor. Father Romeo Martorelli was appointed pastor in April, l922 and served until May 1928. During this time, another Italian parish was established in the Collinwood neighborhood, drawing into its boundaries many parishioners who had originally belonged to Holy Rosary. Following Father Martorelli's departure, Father Humbert Crescentini served as administrator for a brief period.

As the national depression gripped the Little Italy area in particular, it fell to Father Joseph Trivisonno who was named pastor on April 27, 1929 to be a true shepherd of his flock. He

Open air classroom at Murray Hill School in 1911. Holy Rosary Church in background.

was faced with helping to meet the dire needs of the poor because 995, or two-thirds, of the 1,472 families registered in the parish were on public welfare, or "relief," as it was known at that time. There was widespread unemployment, and little food for most families in the parish. In addition to helping the poor in their material needs he began to revitalize the parish by obtaining the teaching services of the Maestre Pie Filippini (Religious Teachers Filippini). In August 1936, five sisters arrived from the Mother House in Morristown, New Jersey to be stationed at Holy Rosary. The old parish house, at 1985 East 120th Street, was converted into a Convent for them. Prior to the arrangement for these teachers, Father Trivisonno had secured the services of the Ursuline Sisters to teach the catechism to the children of the parish. Students from Saint Mary's Seminary aided the Ursuline sisters in their work. In addition, Father Trivisonno, early in his pastorate, found the church in need of repairs. Its wooden floor was replaced, and the interior redecorated, including the installation of new lighting fixtures. He had a stage built in the basement hall, and installed kitchen facilities there. He also installed the first two stained glass windows. He was also able to reduce the floating indebtedness of the parish from $70,000 to $40,000. Father Trivisonno served the parish for ten years, and was reassigned in 1939.

Monsignor Joseph Trivisonno, circa 1940s.

Early church members enjoyed acting in dramas and presenting musical reviews. A drama club helped pay for repairs to the church basement in the early 1900s, and various groups presented such productions of the "Musical 20's" as well as several Passion Plays. With the newly constructed stage, shows were easier to produce, and later Sister Florinda of the Filippini order would put it to good use with the numerous musical shows she directed.

As World War II raged in Europe, Father Trivisonno, then a Monsignor, was succeeded by the Reverend Charles M. McBride who was installed by Bishop James McFadden, Auxiliary of the Diocese, on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1940. The earlier lament of the bank loan officer proved to be of some substance, for Father McBride, some thirty years later, found himself with a $47,000.00 mortgage on the church property. He immediately set about to campaign for funds to pay off the debt, a campaign, some old-time parishioners say, which took him to every tavern keeper in the area. Father McBride soon became very well liked, and his fund-raising campaigns resulted in full payment of the debt on August 18, 1943. The mortgage was burned on the front steps of the church on October 3, 1943, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, after a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward F. Hoban. In addition to retiring the mortgage, Father McBride also saw to the completion of the installation of the stained glass windows in the church. They are among the most beautiful stained glass windows in the Cleveland area. The window at the East entry features Our Lady of the Rosary, pictured with Saints Dominic and Catherine. The West entry window depicts the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. Other windows portray the various Joyful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, with the exception of the Visitation.

In an effort to augment the youth programs at Alta House, Father McBride formed the CYO sports program as well as several youth clubs, including a Boy Scout Troop, all of which served approximately 100 boys. An evening form of recreation was roller- skating in the church basement, which would be frowned on today, but was great fun at the time.

Father McBride's pastorate coincided with the duration of World War II. In 1942 he inaugurated an evening prayer service for the safety of all members of the Armed Forces, which was conducted until the end of the war. He sponsored Communion breakfasts for those departing for military service, and started a monthly publication, "Holy Rosary Chat," which was mailed to all servicemen from the parish. A statue of Our Lady of Peace, formerly near the east entrance of the church at street level, was dedicated to the 20 young men from the parish that died during the war. Frank Conti, a local undertaker, donated the statue in their memory.

During the 1940's, the societies began to increase their contribution to the life of the parish, both in spiritual exercises, and in its physical maintenance. Notable among them was the Holy Rosary Society, under the forty-three year presidency of

Saint Anthony Society in Feast of the Assumption procession, circa 1950s.

Mrs. Josephine Dottore, from 1940 to 1983, and the Saint Anthony Society, under the forty-seven year presidency of Mrs. Ersilia Pala, from 1941 to 1988. Mrs. Minnie Thomas, Mrs. Pala's daughter, continues in her footsteps as president of that Society, and Rosemarie Dottore continues in her mother's footsteps as president of the Holy Rosary Society. Those who have been in the parish long enough will remember all the hard work these leaders and their members did for all the feasts, dinners, and hospitalities they arranged for the parish for many years. Included in this group were long-time Assumption Feast Chairman, John Peca, and his associate, Ed Occhionero.

While there are so many individuals and groups who have contributed so much to the life of the parish over the years, a few deserving special mention include: "Professor Biagio", an early organist; Sam Colacarro, Sexton or "Sacristan" of long-time service; his son, Felix, collection teller; and his son-in-law, Frank Vitolo, long-time custodian. Special mention is made of the long-time service, in many endeavors, of Frank and Mary Fiorilli, as well as the very special and late Fiore Discenzo who was known for, among other extraordinary attributes, being the most zealous of raffle ticket sellers and devoted ringer of the bells. Added to these would also be the tireless volunteerism in so many areas including rectory support and hospitality, and labors in the work of St. Vincent de Paul on the parts of Angie Sanders, Marie Fratus and Anne DiNunzio.

NEED FOR A PARISH SCHOOL

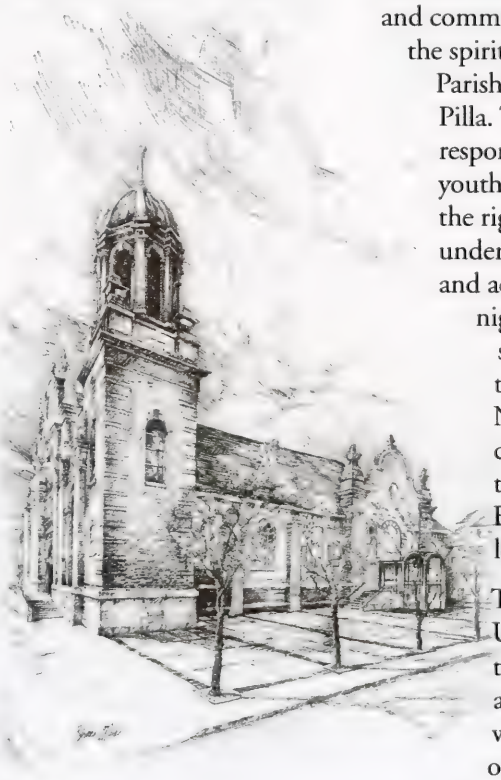
History repeated itself when the Reverend Ferdinand Tamburri, a native Italian, was named administrator and then pastor of the parish to succeed Father McBride who was named to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Father Tamburri had come to the United States in 1936. It would fall to him to fulfill the early wish of Bishop Horstman in providing a school for the parish. His two predecessors had tried unsuccessfully to purchase the existing but not operating Murray Hill School, which neighborhood children had attended. In 1952, Father Tamburri organized a Building Fund Campaign Committee. The goal of $350,000 was met, under the co-chairmanship of Frank Catliota and Alexander Demaioribus. The committee raised approximately $100,000 and the parish obtained a 4.5% loan for $200,000 from the Knights of Columbus. Construction of the school was done by the Dunbar Company. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on May 17, 1953. The occasion was made more momentous for Father Tamburri in that it was also his Silver Jubilee as a priest. Auxiliary Bishop John Krol presided at the blessing of the cornerstone of the school on October 4, 1953. The late Joseph Ceruti was the building's architect, and its durability as evidenced by its continued current use is a testimony to his and Father Tamburri's talents, and to the dedication of all parishioners who subscribed to its building fund. The school was formally dedicated by Archbishop Edward F. Hoban on August 22, 1954. A kindergarten class and grades one through three started in the fall of that year with an enrollment of 200 students, with successive grades added as the school years progressed. The school was designed to accommodate approximately 700 students. In addition to the funds raised for the school, the parish was assessed in 1947 for $21,500 for the new cathedral, and later for $30,000 to aid in the construction of diocesan high schools.

GOLDEN JUBILEE, FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE

The Golden Jubilee of the Church edifice occurred in 1959, toward the concluding years of Father Tamburri's pastorate. In honor of the occasion, a new organ was purchased at a cost of $25,000 through the diligent efforts of the school's music teacher, Sister Florinda Clarici, M.P.F. (Her sister, Sister Lucy Clarici, M.P.F., was among the first group of sisters who came to the parish in 1936). Through her efforts, we are still able to appreciate the contribution such a fine instrument makes to the liturgy. The organ was purchased from the Schantz Organ Company in Orville, Ohio. In 1961, Father Tamburri became the chaplain of the Holy Family Cancer Home. Prior to his leaving, he celebrated his 30th anniversary as a priest. The affection in which he was held, and his own affection for the parish was evidenced by the grand celebration for him on that occasion. In 1969, his personal gift of $5,000 helped offset parish debts. When his successor Father Francis E. Gasbarre, acknowledged Father Tamburri's generous gift in the parish bulletin, he further noted that in the past, Father Tamburri had always returned to the parish those personal donations received by him from various parish groups.

During his pastorate, Father Tamburri had undertaken major building repairs and renovations, including repair of the roof at a cost of $40,000. The Romeo Celleghin Co. did the remodeling of the church's interior at a cost of $9,000. The remodeling of the church hall was done at a cost of $7,500. It was also at this time that the main entrance steps were lowered, and divided, and the two side entrances were constructed.

The parish and the "Little Italy" neighborhood were simplistically epitomized as manifestations of intolerance during the racial turmoil that engulfed the city during the sixties. Criticisms were made of the area because of some isolated incidents. It fell to one of the kindest and gentlest of men, Father Gasbarre, who was known to have ridden his bicycle throughout the city, enjoying its mix of people, to help dispel both the perceived and the practiced expressions of intolerance. By his preaching, example, and writings in the parish bulletin he urged reverence for all people. He worked closely with public officials, community groups and concerned individuals to ensure that the principle of the dignity of all people would prevail in his church community. It was during this time that many of the specific reforms of Vatican II came into practice, among them the use of English in the liturgy, communal singing, and increased participation of the laity in serving as lectors and in other aspects of parish service. One requirement of physical change was the relocation of the rear baptismal font to the right of the main altar, with the vacated area converted into a "quiet room." Also at this time "Cursillos in Christianity," a charismatic program, was encouraged for some parishioners to develop as lay leaders.



During the early 1970's, membership in various parish organizations amounted to slightly more than 300 men and women, with 105 of them belonging to the school's Parent-Teachers Unit. During the existence of the school, the Parent-Teachers Unit held many special fund-raising events for the benefit of the pupils. The Dad's Club of the school also organized many sports programs for the youth of the parish. On call at that time were 45 altar boys. In October 1973, the Parish Renewal Group was organized, and in November, the Holy Rosary Credit Union was formed and a Board of Directors was elected. By 1976, reflecting the declining population of families with young children, the Parent-Teachers Unit membership declined to 60. Society membership dropped to 79, and only 21 altar boys were available.

In 1972, the Reverend Francis Valentini succeeded Father Gasbarre as pastor. One of his immediate concerns was to repair the damages caused by a fire in the church basement that occurred toward the end of Father Gasbarre's pastorate. Fortunately, a late evening, guitar-strumming assistant pastor smelled the midnight smoke and quickly alerted the fire department. The restoration work coincided with the need to make other specific physical liturgical reforms resulting from Vatican II, and they were easily incorporated in the necessary repairs made at that time.

In 1977 Bishop James Hickey assigned Father Valentini to another parish, and announced that he had asked the Fathers of the Congregation of Saint Joseph, an order established in Italy by Saint Leonard Murialdo, to serve the parish. In doing so, the Bishop returned the parish to the care of a religious order in much the same way it began under the Scalabrini Fathers. Ironically, there was some dissatisfaction on the part of some parishioners over the assignment of "non-native" clergy to the parish. However, it wasn't long before the shortsightedness of those dissidents was displaced by the warm spirit of the Fathers who literally walked in the paths of the original Italian Missionaries to once again serve the people of Holy Rosary Parish.

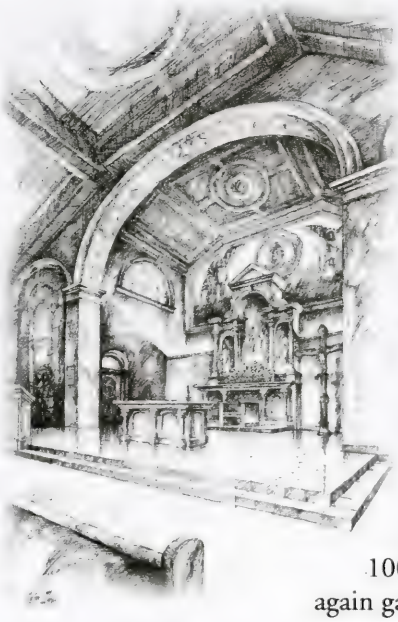
It was during the administration of Father Gaetano Menegatto that the first elected Parish Council was established under the guidelines of Vatican II, and increased participation of the laity occurred through the exercise of the various ministries and commissions of the council. An emphasis was placed on the spiritual growth of the parish in the spirit of the 1984 Parish Pastoral Council Policy issued by Bishop Anthony Pilla. The Order had some concerns in assuming parish responsibilities since their primary vocation is work with youth, not parish administration. Nevertheless, despite the rigors of regular parish duties, they managed to undertake and promote many youth-oriented programs and activities such as retreats, drop-in center recreation nights, youth-service groups, and the ever-popular soccer games. During Father Gaetano's pastorate, the beautiful artwork of well-known local artists, Norbert and Victoria Koehn, was installed in the church. The artwork consists of wood sculptures of the Baptism of Jesus, and The Breaking of Bread at Emmaus, and includes a large carved wood crucifix located on the main altar.

The relationship between the neighborhood and University Circle Inc. had always been somewhat tenuous in terms of property acquisition and other areas of friction. Nevertheless, Father Gaetano was able to elicit extensive cooperation with the organization. In cooperation with the Circle group, Holy Rosary became a co-sponsor in the construction of Abington Arms, a housing facility for elderly and handicapped citizens operated by HUD. The parish continues to maintain a close spiritual relationship with the facility, providing liturgical and other special programs for the residents and by including them in the life of the parish with activities at the church itself.

The end of the Fathers of Saint Joseph's administration occurred in 1989, at a time when declining enrollment and rising operational costs put the continued existence of the parish school in question. At the time it was literally being maintained on a year-to-year basis. In the fall of 1988 the Order's governing body, or chapter, had determined that, because of a shortage of

personnel and lack of seminarians, they were unable to maintain a community at Holy Rosary and needed to consolidate. Therefore, they asked the Bishop to return the care of the parish to the diocese. One father was reassigned to California and the rest to their Avon, Ohio community.

THE MILLENNIUM: HOPE



The Reverend Philip G. Racco was selected by Bishop Pilla to be the new pastor of the parish. He was reassigned from Saint Philomena parish in East Cleveland, and has served as pastor for the past 20 years, celebrating 32 years as a priest on June 11, 2009. His assignment at Holy Rosary occurred approximately two years before the 100th Anniversary of the parish that was observed with a public dinner at the Landerhaven Party Center in the spring of 1992. As one hundred years as a parish came to a close, Father Racco encountered a continually changing social environment. Now, one culture would increasingly blend into many, and the local concerns of a neighborhood would be greatly transformed and magnified into city, national, and global issues in carrying out the mission of the Church. His task would be to enhance and rekindle the spiritual life of that community.

Due to the inability of the parochial school to maintain operations because of the continued decline in enrollment, as earlier noted, the Parish Council decided to suspend operation of the school at the end of the 1992-1993 academic year.

Father Racco envisioned an educational facility for the school building, such as the Montessori method of teaching, that could attract a wide student population. A committee of parishioners consisting of Joseph Ceruti, the school's original architect, and Joseph Sidari, a local business leader, was then formed to explore the possibility of adapting the school building to accommodate a Montessori program. A successful campaign for this purpose was undertaken in 1995. After Mr. Ceruti's death, Mr. Sidari carried on the implementation phase of the school program to spearhead the establishment of the Montessori School at Holy Rosary. Starting with pre-school in 1995, the school presently has a total enrollment of 125 students in pre-school through grade 8. Drawing from a broad base of possible attendees in the University Circle area and near suburbs, the school has been very successful in carrying out its educational mission, first administered by Paula Leigh-Doyle until 2007 when Tina Schneider became the Executive Director. The success of the program, as witnessed by the growth in student population and the establishment of a Montessori high school in the University Circle area, is a testimony to Father Racco's vision in advocating the Montessori concept to be located in the parish.

A religious formation program for children called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is presented on Sunday mornings under the direction of Mrs. Laura Bastulli-Parran. Mrs. Parran has for many years conducted Catechist training sessions during the summer months for Catechists of parishes both in and outside of the Cleveland Diocese. Catechists in other counties such as Africa have benefited from Mrs. Parran's dedication and knowledge of the Good Shepherd Program. This program of catecheses is also taught in the Montessori classrooms during the school day.

"Second only to the music of the Cathedral," was a comment made by Bishop Pilla when visiting Holy Rosary Church. Much of the credit for the music sung and played at Holy Rosary is due to our organist of many years, Ülle Laido. Ülle has developed and trained vocalists, instrumentalists and members of the various choirs who have used their talents to give glory to God and to enhance our Liturgical celebrations.

TIME TO REMODEL

The aging church building was again in need of major repairs to ensure its service for at least another 100 years. To meet these needs, Father Racco once again gathered concerned parishioners to help with raising the necessary funds to repair and enhance the church and its surroundings. A successful fund-raising campaign for its renovation began in 1996, with September 1997 slated as the start of renovation work, and an early 1999 completion date. The volunteer work of architect Steve Bucchieri in the planning and implementation of the renovation project was instrumental in the success of the project. The parish is most grateful to him for his expertise and the voluntary contribution of his time and efforts in the restoration work.

There were three major areas of concern for repair: the exterior, the interior, and the Community Hall. The exterior of the church, like most of the city's buildings, was discolored by years of pollution and weathering. Tuck-pointing revitalized the original beauty and detail of its construction. The problematic bell tower, patch-repaired over the years, was again repaired, and the dull plastic coverings on the exterior of the stained glass windows were removed and replaced with clear safety glass so that their lustrous beauty could shine through once again.

The renovation of the interior of the church consisted in part, of replacing the altar and pulpit. In addition, the floor of the sanctuary was replaced with natural stone. Worn out carpet and flooring were replaced and new pews installed in time for Palm Sunday services, 1999. A Reconciliation Chapel replaced the confessional booths located along the east wall of the church. A new recessed baptismal pool and sculpted font was installed to initiate new members of the Christian community (by semi-immersion for adults). It is dedicated to Bishop Anthony Pilla who was baptized at Holy Rosary. Where needed, areas were painted to freshen them, resulting in a coordinated and pleasing look to the entire church, embodying all the above noted changes and renewals. Once again the church employed the talents of Norbert Koehn who sculptured the pulpit, baptismal font and altar.

The Community Hall, which had seen much use over the years, had long been in dire need of a major renovation. The remodeling was met with the overwhelming approval of parishioners. In addition to the modest income its rental affords the church, the hall serves as an important gathering place for the celebration of many joyful family occasions and expressions of parish fellowship. Air-conditioning was added to both the church and the hall in the renovation.

The final phase of the external renovation consisted of the removal of the ramp that was originally constructed to provide handicapped access to the church. In its place a more utilitarian elevator was installed to allow access from the street level to both the church and hall. Finally, to create an Italian expression of a center of daily activity, a "piazza" now exists at the eastside of the church in front of the rectory to serve as a pleasant gathering place, and as a threshold of a revitalized facility. The cost of the entire renovation was approximately $750,000. The firm of Krueger, Grealis & Associates, oversaw the renovation.

Ten years later, recurring problems with the bell tower could no longer be overlooked. In 2009 the copper on the bell tower dome was completely replaced by the Golden Macaw Historical Sheet Metal company for $100,000, again under the expert direction of architect Steve Bucchieri.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION CELEBRATED FOR 111 YEARS

The Feast of the Assumption has been celebrated since 1898, making 2009 its 111th year of observance. The Feast, as it is commonly known, is a continuance of a tradition that was celebrated by the founders of the parish in their native Italy, most of whom came from the province of Campobasso. It is a religious festival with the effervescent Italian characteristics of celebration, making it a special occasion for all to enjoy. In the past, the original religious nature of the Feast became somewhat obscured. Father Racco and the Holy Rosary parish sought to restore and maintain the Feast as an expression of faith. The Feast celebrates the special favor granted by God to Mary, and so in a spirit of joy and faith the community honors Mary. Steps to achieve this end include a Novena preceding the Feast, a communal reconciliation service, a solemn religious procession on August 15th, and a beautiful evening candlelight procession to conclude the four-day event. In recent years, under the leadership of Ms. Carole Tagg, many aspects of the Feast have been reorganized and streamlined to ensure greater efficiency and success in carrying out this important annual event.

Italians Hail Feast of Assumption

FEAST of THE ASSUMPTION PARADE

PHOTOS BY J. S. YATES.

FOR more than thirteen hundred years, the fifteenth day of August has been set apart by the Roman Catholic church for the celebration of the Feast of the Assumption, the bodily assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven.

In many European countries this feast is celebrated with pageants and street parades, the ceremony beginning at vesper time on the evening before and continuing throughout the entire day.

Masses are said and special gifts are offered at the shrine of the virgin, whose statue is carried through streets.

This festive . . . celebration has been transplanted to America by the Italians, in whose colonies it is the gala event of the year.

The Madonna.

The event this year was celebrated, as usual, by the Cleveland Italians of the Most [illegible] parish. The festivities began Tuesday evening with street concerts and band parades, and as early as 6:30 Wednesday morning the day of special celebration was ushered in by more band music.

After high mass at Holy Rosary church the statue of the virgin was taken from its niche and carried to the church steps.

Here it was taken in charge by four men who had bid highest for the honor of officiating as bearers and, amid the playing of bands, the chanting of the choir and the clanging of church bells, was carried through the streets of the settlement, stopping over and over as each worshiper approached to offer money or some golden trinket, which was hung over the outstretched arms of the figure of pinned to the streamers which hung from her shoulders.

The Akron Italian band led the parade, followed by 200 little girls in white.

After them came Citiello's Boys' band.

Rev. Father Pietro Cantino, accompanied by three acolytes, preceded the statue.

Hundreds of women and girls and men followed.

In the evening there was a grand competitive fireworks display, in which Paul Rozzi of New Castle, Pa., and Michael Magliesi of Dinbar, Pa., competed for a prize. Mayor Davis, acting as one of the judges, awarded the prize to Magliesi.

Plain Dealer article featuring the Feast of the Assumption celebration in Little Italy in 1916.

In many respects, Father Racco's efforts to focus on the spirituality of the Feast echo those of Father Gibelli, who was quoted in the newspaper on August 16, 1903 finding fault with the expense involved, saying "people spend too much money foolishly in this feast…I sometimes think it would be much better if they devoted their energies to building the new church…and school." As we know, the church and school were eventually built, and today the proceeds of the Feast are devoted to assisting with parishioners' tuition to Catholic schools, a program that Father Gibelli would certainly applaud.

NOTABLE ANNUAL EVENTS

Another religious celebration added in recent years is "Little Christmas in Little Italy." It is held on the feast of the Epiphany in January, complete with an appearance of the classical Befana. Legend tells us that this wistful old lady was too busy with household chores to seek the Holy Child with the Wise Men. Before her entrance into the Church, Father Racco delights in telling the children gathered around the altar, a Christmas story that elicits spirited responses from the children as they discern the moral within the tale. When the Mass is concluded, the children are again invited to join Father on the steps of the altar. After a brief explanation of who they are waiting for, the Befana enters the Church in her traditional Italian dress, complete with her well-used broom. Now in a holiday mood, the Befana invites all the children to follow her to the Church Hall where tables laden with treats await the children. As the children enter the hall, the Befana presents each one with a gift from her huge sack.

Another annual tradition, adding to the spiritual dimension of Good Friday, is the outdoor Stations of the Cross through the neighborhood. Parishioners, students and visitors all join in this prayerful remembrance of Christ's suffering. Fourteen large wooden crosses placed in the front lawns of parishioners' homes represent the Stations of the Cross. At each cross, prayers are said and a hymn is sung.

On Columbus Day the Italian-American community of Cleveland comes to Holy Rosary to celebrate their Italian heritage. After Mass there is a parade in which representatives

Feast of the Assumption procession, early 1900s.

of various Italian-American organizations are represented. Many bands from area schools add to the celebration.

For the past few years, during the Week of Christian Unity, Holy Rosary has joined Epworth Methodist Church in an ecumenical prayer service. This service is held on alternating years at these two churches.

A Saint Joseph dinner, held on or near the Feast of Saint Joseph, March 19, has aided one of the many charitable organizations supported by Holy Rosary Parish.

The Saint Anthony Novena held on nine Tuesdays before the feast of Saint Anthony, and the special Mass of Saint Anthony on June 15, have attracted parishioners from neighboring parishes to join with the members of our St. Anthony Society in honoring this great saint.

PASTORAL MINISTERS

In 1991, Sr. Johnica D'Amico, a Sister of Notre Dame and a daughter of the parish, became the first Pastoral Associate of Holy Rosary Parish. Sister assisted Father Racco as the chairperson of the original executive committee of the Montessori School. Sister served the parish from 1991 to 2000.

Sister Ann Isabella, SND began her ministry as a Pastoral Associate at Holy Rosary in 2000. As Pastoral Associate, Sister assists the Pastor in various parish programs and events. Welcoming new parishioners, the Ministry of Consolation, the Little Rock Scripture Study, and the Pre-Baptism program are special areas of her ministry.

On Parish Staff since 1997, Sister Trina Livignano, SND undertakes home visitations and cares for our homebound parishioners. Sister is well appreciated for her friendly and cheerful manner. Sister Trina served as catechist for the Good Shepherd Program on Sunday mornings.

In 2007 Anne DeMarco was certified as a Pastoral Minister by the Diocesan Center for Pastoral Leadership. Anne serves the parish as Director of RCIA and Chairperson for Parish Hospitality. Anne has for many years, and continues to be, a Minister of Holy Communion to parishioners who are homebound.

In May 2007, Holy Rosary parish welcomed its first deacon, the Rev. Mr. Bruce J. Battista, a son of Holy Rosary parish. Rev. Mr. Battista was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon on May 5, 2007 following four years of study through the Diocesan Diaconate Program. As a Deacon, he may deliver homilies, baptize, prepare couples for marriage and witness marriages. Deacon Bruce's primary role is to help the parish become more service-centered to the poor and to one another.

NEWMAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

In 1854, an assemblage of various "strangers from all parts… consisting of teachers and learners (in) a place for communication and circulation of thought" would be the basis of John Henry Cardinal Newman's Idea of a University, or Studium Generale. Little did the immigrants who banded together as strangers in a new land realize that the spiritual faith of the missionary Bishop and the intellectual discipline of the Cardinal would come together as part of Holy Rosary parish, which now serves as the spiritual home of the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry. Weekend Eucharist and RCIA take place at Holy Rosary. College students regularly gather for conversation along with coffee, donuts and fruit after the 8:00 p.m. Sunday Mass during the school year.

The Newman Catholic Campus Ministry has become an integral part of Holy Rosary parish. A large number of student-parishioners make Holy Rosary their Catholic home during their college years. In addition to specific university related programs and events dedicated to their spiritual development, students actively participate in Mass celebrations, serve as lectors and Eucharistic ministers, and volunteer for other parish ministries. Mr. Tony Vento currently serves as the diocesan appointed director of the campus ministry, which has been in University Circle since 1937.

The Newman office is in the Interfaith Center, located in the heart of the Case Western Reserve University campus at 11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland.

CATHOLIC PRESENCE IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

Included in the influx to the parish, in addition to the numerous students, are faculty and staff of other University Circle Institutions, as well as patients and their families in treatment at several nearby hospitals and other medical facilities, as well as the staff at those facilities. Along with the neighborhood faithful, residents from the close suburbs,

and families of the children at the Montessori School, the congregation has become more eclectic and vibrant, and has become the Catholic presence in University Circle. Additionally, Holy Rosary has reached out to non-Catholic Christians in the University Circle area and celebrates an ecumenical prayer service annually.

Although our numbers are somewhat less than those cited from a hundred years ago in 1909, we continue to draw new parishioners from more varied ethnic and racial backgrounds who seek an active Catholic parish.

CLUSTERING COMES TO THE CLEVELAND DIOCESE

As the 100th anniversary of the placing of the cornerstone of Holy Rosary's church building approached, Holy Rosary parish was faced with a new challenge presented by the Bishop. Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, who succeeded Most Reverend Anthony Pilla as Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese in May 2006, continued the initiative to consolidate parish resources. In May 2007, parishes throughout the Cleveland Diocese were presented with clustering configurations and goals. Some parishes were directed to discern difficult solutions within their cluster including closings and mergers. Other parishes were instructed to reach out to nearby parish clusters to strengthen the parishes and to seek a new spirit of evangelization within our local Catholic parishes. Holy Rosary was placed in a cluster arrangement with Saint Gregory the Great and Saint Margaret Mary parishes in South Euclid, Ohio.

In August 2008, the Cluster Planning Committee for South Euclid & University Circle/Little Italy held town hall meetings at each parish to unveil the proposal that would be submitted to Bishop Lennon. The merger of St. Margaret Mary and St. Gregory the Great into one parish was proposed. The proposal also stated that the newly formed parish would maintain both existing properties, with the combined staff and pastoral leadership located at the site of St. Gregory the Great.

The final directive from the Diocese is that one new parish will be formed from the former St. Margaret Mary and St. Gregory the Great parishes. The new combined parish will be located at the site of the present St. Gregory the Great parish and will be established by June 2010.

Holy Rosary, maintaining its current location and name, will work closely with the newly formed South Euclid parish throughout the merger and beyond. Presently, we have combined RCIA instruction and have joined with our cluster parishes for Communal Reconciliation services and other events. In addition, Holy Rosary is strengthening evangelization and social and community services as asked by the Bishop in his initial cluster letter. By maintaining the Catholic presence in University Circle and Little Italy, and by welcoming students from Newman Campus Ministry, we will strive to increase Church visibility and effectiveness, support Catholic schools and strengthen our finances within our cluster.

At the present time, an issue of great concern at Holy Rosary is the need for new office space. As the clustering initiative moves forward and the three parishes become two, we will embrace the reorganization process as we seek to share resources between the two new parishes. However, it has become urgent to create new office space at Holy Rosary. The solution must be planned for and resolved in the near future.

THE ROSARY CONGRESS

A Rosary Congress was held at Holy Rosary from October 7 through October 12, 2008. The purpose of the Congress was three-fold. First of all it was held in honor of the 100th anniversary of the placing of the cornerstone of our church building, which took place on October 7, 1908. Secondly, it included an Opening Marian Procession followed by Mass on our parish feast day, the feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. Finally, the intention of the Congress was for the Renewal of the Catholic Family as a Source of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, a reminder to all of us that the immigrants who settled Little Italy held love of their faith and family as paramount in their lives.

The Congress consisted of five nights and six days of continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the recitation of the Rosary every hour on the hour for that same period of time. Each evening a Mass was celebrated for a particular intention of the family. We were blessed to have many priests and speakers who spiritually enlightened and nourished our families throughout the Congress. Included among them were celebrants Father Matt McClain from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Father Benedict Groeschel and Father Antoine Thomas from EWTN, and Father Lawrence Tosco, who served at Holy Rosary for 10 years with the Fathers of St Joseph. Dr. Ken Howell from the Coming Home Network and Steve Pokorny from the John Paul II Institute gave outstanding talks.

The Congress attracted people from throughout our Diocese and beyond. Our cluster parishes of St. Gregory the Great and St. Margaret Mary supported us with prayer, ushering and greeting, and a steady flow of baked goods. People from many other parishes, including St. Clare, St. Paschal Baylon, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anslem, St. Joan of Arc, Holy Angels, St. Rita's, Gesu, and St. Charles Borromeo spent many hours in Adoration and recitation of the Rosary.

Finally, Bishop Lennon celebrated the Closing Mass of Thanksgiving and led us in the Eucharistic Procession and Final Benediction. It was a beautiful ending to a spiritually uplifting week. The parishioners of Holy Rosary honored our Blessed Mother in a most special way during this Congress, the fruits of which our parish and families will benefit from for years to come.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

For the life of the parish—and the cluster—to develop and grow spiritually it needs to be continually active in setting examples through the expression of Gospel values. As the year 2009 celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the present edifice, we dedicate our energies to raising up the Body of Christ, much as the brick structure was built for worship one hundred years ago. It is hoped that Catholics in Cleveland realize that the living church consists of faithful and active

participation of parishioners, not the brick building—no matter how beautiful it may be.

The current congregation finds joy and hope in the life of the church today—as did the young immigrants who built our church building and sought a new life of hope in America. The future of Holy Rosary will be a testament to the faith and determination of the founders of the parish who brought little with them, but left a great legacy for the generations that would follow. We move forward with hope and determination as we recognize the value of what we have inherited, which we shall preserve in faith and action, and then in turn will entrust to future generations.

PARISH MINISTRIES: LIVING THE GOSPEL VALUES

Various ministries and organizations strive to be of service to both the Holy Rosary parish and to those in need within the larger community. Current ministries and organizations at Holy Rosary include:

The **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** program, based upon the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori, M.D. and the work of Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, is the parish's religious and spiritual formation program for children. The Catechesis offers an Atrium experience for children by age groups, from three to twelve years of age. Fourteen catechists serve approximately 120 children on Sundays during the school year.

The **Community of Sant'Egidio** is recognized as a "public lay association" within the Catholic Church and is dedicated to serving the poor, elderly, children, refugees and immigrants, the homeless, and disabled. It was founded in Rome in 1968 and is now present in more than seventy countries around the world.

Eucharistic Adoration, the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, occurs every First Friday of the month beginning after the 12:15 p.m. Mass, concluding with Benediction.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Acolytes and Greeters and Ushers, all assist in the proper celebration of the Eucharist by welcoming and seating all into the House of the Lord, by proclaiming Holy Scriptures in the Liturgy of the Word, by assisting in the distribution of the Eucharist and by assisting the priest at the altar as servers.

The **Holy Rosary Society,** in addition to their devotion to the Rosary, also provides hospitality for all parish social events in conjunction with the Ministry of Martha's Table.

The **Little Rock Scripture Study** is a group Bible study program developed by Catholics in Arkansas that allows for a deeper meaning of scripture and for the practical application of the gospel values in one's own spiritual development.

The **Men's Ministry** is composed of men of all ages who meet monthly during the school year for prayer and discussions on church related topics and fellowship.

Through the **Ministry of Martha's Table,** following the model of St. Martha of Bethany, parishioners strive to promote evangelization through hospitality and fellowship.

The **Music Ministry**–prayer in melody–is an integral component of the Liturgy that enriches its celebration with sonorous sounds of worship and praise provided by the Holy Rosary Choir, the Coro Italiano, the Schola choirs and the Contemporary Ensemble for instruments and voices under the direction of Ülle Laido.

The **Parish Pastoral Council** works with the pastor, providing valuable insight for the parish's spiritual and physical development.

Pastoral Visitation provides spiritual uplifting for all parishioners through home visits, helping with prayers and scripture reading, as well as visiting the homebound and patients in hospitals and nursing homes.

Pre-Baptism Classes are required for parents wishing to have their child baptized. Only one class lasting two hours is required. Classes are offered three times each year.

The **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** is a process for those seeking to enter the church or those Catholics lacking First Eucharist or Confirmation. A team of parishioners supports the candidates weekly from September to Pentecost.

The **Saint Anthony's Women's Society**, devoted to St Anthony, serves an amazing role of hospitality in providing baked goods and refreshments for parish social events and works together with the Ministry of Martha's Table in doing so. Also, a parish novena is held during the nine weeks prior to the Feast of Saint Anthony.

The **Social Concerns Commission** is committed to caring for and providing justice for those in need through various ministries including:

- ***Annual neighborhood cleanup*** to help elderly residents with the care of their properties;
- ***Elizabeth Ministry*** responding to the needs of women as they experience the joys and challenges of the childbearing years and beyond with volunteers offering prayer support, mentoring and friendship;
- ***Food and clothing distribution*** at the Father Michael Wittman Ozanam Center;
- ***Neighborhood Outreach*** to the residents of Abington Arms and to the local community in Little Italy;
- ***The Prison Ministry,*** providing visitations to the incarcerated through the Friend to Friend Program;
- ***Right to Life,*** providing education on life issues and advocating for all human life, from conception to natural death; and
- ***Stitch Ministry,*** transforming donations of yarn and cloth into clothing for the elderly or less fortunate by volunteers who sew, knit, crochet, quilt and embroider.

The **Women's Ministry's** goal is to nurture the spiritual lives of women in the parish through learning experiences and discussions on women's issues in the church. Women of all ages are welcome to meet monthly during the school year.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE LORD, NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Parishioners who have entered the priesthood or religious life are: The Reverends Joseph Trivisonno, John Iammarino, Angelo Trivisonno, Joseph Palermo, Albert Inteso, Alex Nardi, Michael Trivisonno, Walter Hyclak, Luigi Miola, Anthony Cassese, Joseph Seminatore, and Brother Victor Forlani.

Women from the parish dedicating their lives to religious service include those entering the Filipini order: Sisters Antonette Colarochio, Mary Granatiello, Mary Zucca, Dolores Vitale, and Mary DiLillo. In the Ursuline Order, Sisters: Theresa Di Renzo, Assunta Trivisonno, Lucy D'Alessandro, and Jane Spicuzza. In the Community of the Sisters of Notre Dame: Madeline Columbro, Johnica D'Amico, Joanne Laurienzo, and Rose Falorio. Vera Grace entered the Order of St. Joseph of St. Mark, and Pauline Longo, the Benedictine Order.

In addition to the above religious vocations, four priests were baptized at Holy Rosary, but reared elsewhere. They are The Reverends Robert Bonnell, Peter Mastrobuono, Lawrence Martello, and Anthony Pilla, retired Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese.

As noted in a previous section, the Rev. Mr. Bruce J. Battista, son of the late Joseph (Pipp) and Margaret Battista, husband of Anna, and father of Peter, Amelia and Paul, is assigned to Holy Rosary parish. Deacon Bruce is the first parishioner to be ordained a deacon and continues his parents' long history of devotion and service to Holy Rosary parish.

PASTORS OF HOLY ROSARY

Father Joseph Strumia
Father Joseph Riva
Father Anthony Gibelli
Father Joseph Militello
Father Francis Haley
Father Joseph Nolan
Father Humbert Crescentini
Father Romeo Martorelli
Msgr. Joseph Trivisonno
Father Charles McBride
Father Ferdinand Tamburri
Father Francis Gasbarre
Father Francis Valentini
Father Gaetano Menegatto
Father Philip Racco

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

More than one hundred years ago, God our Father called together a family of prayer through the efforts of His servant, the Rev. Joseph Strumia. Today, that same Spirit inspires us to invite and call others into our Holy Rosary Parish family.

In her past, immigrants from Italy found in Holy Rosary Parish a source of faith and a community of love. Today, preserving our unique traditions, we reach out to people of all races and nationalities and welcome them into our community. Recent immigrants, students, and visitors to Cleveland in particular, those who have loved ones in nearby hospitals, the broken as well as the neighborhood folk are cared for among us.

As a community celebrating the Eucharist and continuously growing in God's love, we seek to turn from sin and to live moral lives.

The same Spirit that inspired the Rev. Joseph Strumia calls the people of Holy Rosary to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through our own faithfulness to God's Word in Scripture and Church teaching.

THE CURRENT STAFF OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH

OCTOBER 2009

Continuing in building the Catholic faith community here at Holy Rosary are the welcoming staff of our parish:

Fr. Philip G. Racco, M.Div, MA	Pastor
Deacon Bruce J. Battista	Permanent Deacon
Sr. Ann Isabella, SND	Pastoral Associate
Maureen Brown	Office Administrator
Sr. Trina Livignano, SND	Parish Visitation
Anne DeMarco	Pastoral Assistant
Ülle Laido	Music Director
Fr. Christopher Weber	In residence

Father Philip Racco, current pastor of Holy Rosary has served the parish since 1989.

Updated by Richard A. Gallitto and Tammy J. Moore

Historical references in this history include, among others, a paper by Rev. Steven Moran and notes made by Frank Fiorilli, as well as the Golden Jubilee brochure, and documents from the archives of the Diocese.

WILLIAM P. GINTHER

WILLIAM P. GINTHER

Architect

of

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Cleveland, Ohio

Born in Akron, Ohio on March 21, 1858, William P. Ginther practiced architecture up to his death on January 15, 1933. At that time, it was estimated that he was responsible for designing nearly 250 ecclesiastical structures — including churches, schools, residences and hospitals — in Ohio, Pennsylvania and neighboring states. One of those buildings is Holy Rosary Church in Cleveland's Little Italy.

Architectural facts about Holy Rosary Church:

- It is an example of Romanesque style
- The exterior is faced with chocolate brown brick, with cut sandstone trimmings throughout
- The stone statues topping the exterior of the church were created by J. Broggino & Bros. of Cleveland
- Andrews Brothers of Cleveland was the builder
- The main altar was made and furnished by the Daprato Statuary Company of Chicago, Illinois
- The stained glass windows were created by Munich Studios of Chicago
- The bells were furnished by E.W. Vanduzen Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio

Glory and Praise to God - Continued Blessings Upon Us

St. Anthony Women's Society

Automotive Excellent Since 1971
All Work Guaranteed Nationwide

South Euclid Shell Auto Care

4254 Mayfield Road
South Euclid, OH 44121

Schedule an Appointment at
www.southeuclidshell.com

216-382-6630

Full Service Auto Repair with Quality Parts

Congratuilations to Our One & Only Parish, Holy Rosary Church, on their 100th Aniversary

James and Antoinette Malatesta

QUINTANA'S
BARBER & DREAM SPA

We wish to congratulate Holy Rosary Church on commemorating 100 Memorable Years

216.321.7889 • 216.421.8380
www.dreamspainc.com • www.quintanasbarbershop.com
2200 South Taylor Road • Cleveland Hts, OH 44118

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100 YEARS!!
DENNIS AND KAREN VICCHIARELLI

Vicchiarelli Funeral Home

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
5252 MAYFIELD ROAD
LYNDHURST, OHIO 44124
(440) 449-5413
FAX (440) 442-1521

Help them get the care they need.

Getting access to health care coverage isn't always easy. Evercare® health plans make it easier for individuals to access their Medicare and State Medical Assistance benefits and get the care they need. Evercare provides health care coverage and services for people who have long-term or advanced illness, are older or have disabilities, whether they live alone, with family or in afacility. We serve thousands of Medicare and State Medical Assistance recipients across the country.

We'd love to work with you to help meet health care coverage needs of these special populations in your community. To learn more about how Evercare can work with your organization, please give us a call.

1-888-269-4208

or visit EvercareHealthPlans.com

Evercare®

A UnitedHealthcare® Medicare Solution

Evercare® plans are offered by United HealthCare Insurance Company and its affiliated companies.
©2007 United HealthCare Services, Inc. B8A920

ORDER ITALIAN SONS and DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

BEST WISHES
HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU

THE OFFICERS AND MEMEBERS OF UNIVERSITY LODGE #192

YOUR CUSTOM
Dream Trip of Italy
IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY.

Custom Tours
for Individuals, Groups and Incentives.
Davinci Custom Travel & Tours
Italy's Premier Travel Specialists
Peter D'Attoma • 330.633.2292
www.DavinciCustomTravel.com

MICHAEL J. OCCHIONERO
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW

MICHAEL J. OCCHIONERO CO., LPA

28601 CHAGRIN BOULEVARD
SUITE 430
BEACHWOOD, OHIO 44122

216-464-7656
FAX 216-765-1307

E-mail: MjoCoLpa@sbcglobal.net

The Boylan Family wish to thank *Fr. Racco, Deacon Bruce, Sr. Ann, Sr. Trina, Anne DeMarco, Feast Committee, Laura Parran/Good Shepherd teachers, Montessori School at Holy Rosary and the parish community.*

Their faith, tireless work and dedication are remembered in our prayers of gratitude and blessings.

Compliments of

Maxi's
Little Italy's
Finest Bistro

12113 Mayfield Road
Cleveland, OH 44106
216 / 421-1500

Gilbert Brenot
Chef/Owner

www.maxisinlittleitaly.com

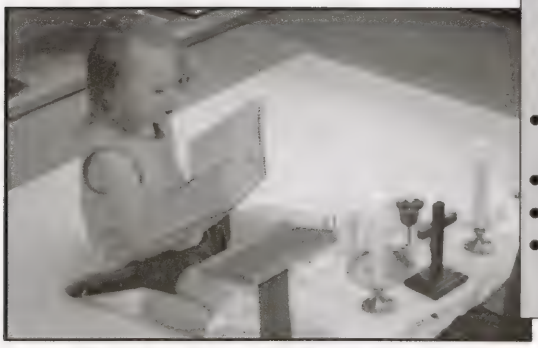
THANK YOU TO HOLY ROSARY...

OUR PARTNER

IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Since re-opening the Holy Rosary parish school in 1995, the Montessori School at Holy Rosary has emerged as a shining success, now serving more than 120 students from pre-school to 8th grade.

At the very heart of our school is a commitment to Montessori principles of education, social justice, service and spirituality.



Catholic Formation through our...

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd lessons & atrium in every classroom
- Children's Liturgies
- Theology class at Middle School level
- Service projects in the community

The Montessori School at Holy Rosary 12009 Mayfield Road Cleveland, OH 44106 (216) 421-0700

www.montessori-holyrosary.org

Hair In Motion

2133 Murray Hill Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

216-721-0095

Owner ~ Nella
Stylists ~ Debbie, Jenelle, Melissa, Lauren

Hours:

Mon.	12-8
Tues	Closed
Wed.	12-6
Thurs.	12-8
Fri.	10:30-5:00
Sat.	9:30-4:00

hairinmotion@aol.com

Terry Carlin Violins

Full serivce string shop for violins, violas & cellos.
Sales, rentals, repairs, accessories.

Tuesdays we offer same day bow rehair service.

2026 Murray Hill Road #2102
Cleveland, Ohio
216.791.2440

Hours:
Tuesday thru Friday: 9AM – 4:30PM
Saturday: 10AM – 2PM

tacarlin@sbcglobal.net
www.carlinviolins.com

Gioria é
Prosperita é
Tanti
Belli
Auguri
Ti voglio bene

Marie Ventura

DiStefano's

AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FOODS, INC.

IMPORTED FOODS & WINES
HOMEMADE SANDWICHES
PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

440-442-7775 - Phone
440-442-9161 - Fax

5600 HIGHLAND RD.
HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44143

GUIDO'S

Restaurant, Pizzeria
and
Preferred Catering Service

HOURS:
Monday through Saturday - 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Sunday - Closed

729-9666

Collinwood Memories
Men's Social Club
Established 1986

Best Wishes
on Your
100-Year
Anniversary

Congratulations
For the Past 100 Years

Best Wishes for the Future

Holy Rosary Church

1909-2009

John and Lynne Feighan

THE FEDELI GROUP

"Each time anyone comes into contact with us, they must become different and better people because of having met us. We must radiate God's love. We must know that we have been created for greater things, not just to be a number in the world, not just to go for diplomas and degrees, this work and that work. We have been created in order to love and to be loved. Love does not measure . . . it just gives."

~Mother Theresa

Congratulations to Holy Rosary Church on 100 years of being the cornerstone of the community by serving and enhancing the quality of Catholic life in and outside the community. Your commitment and leadership to honor our Blessed Virgins' Feast of the Assumption has touched and bestowed blessings to many. We are sincerely grateful to so many for maintaining a brighter future for our children and our Italian heritage.

The Fedeli Group
5005 Rockside Road ~ Fifth Floor
Independence, OH 44131-8003
(216) 328-8080 ~ 800-837-7191 ~ Fax (216) 328-8081
www.thefedeligroup.com

CONGRATULAZIONI!

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

ON YOUR 100-YEAR COMMEMORATION

PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

THE PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN THE VATICAN MUSEUMS OF OHIO INC.

Dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the vast and unique collection of art contained in the Vatican Museums.

For more information please call **400.498.1300**
or visit us online at: **www.vaticanpatronsohio.org**

Murray Hill Galleries
2026 Murray Hill Road

Many blessed years…
to
Holy Rosary Parish

The Lyceum
Classical Catholic Education
Grades 7-12
2062 Murray Hill Road
Cleveland, OH 44106
(216) 707-1121
www.thelyceum.org

Sadie Falorio

IN MEMORY OF JOHN FALORIO

HOUSE CALLS, FOR YOU & YOUR PARENTS!

When the next step in recovery is returning home, let Montefiore Homecare help.

Our homecare team is specially trained to care for a wide variety of medical and surgical problems.

Montefiore offers all the support services you'll need right at your door.

So, welcome home.

Click on Community Services on our website, **montefiorecare.org**

Montefiore Homecare is non-sectarian and open to all members of the community.

MONTEFIOREHOMECARE

We Put the Home in Care.

216.910.2471

Lisa Kristosik
Director of Home Healthcare

Congratulations on reaching your 100th Anniversary!

"CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS HOLY ROSARY"

Fioritto

Funeral Service

"Dove la vostra famiglia diventa parte della nostra famiglia"
"Where your family becomes part of our family"

Owned and Operated by The Mario A. Fioritto Family

Mario A. Fioritto, Jr.
DonnaMarie Fioritto-Tamburro
William A. Schneider

440-442-5900

Facilities Available Throughout Northeastern Ohio

5236 Mayfield Road - Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

"Providing the Finest Funeral Service for 59 Years"
Founded by Mario A. & Corinne P. Fioritto

OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL: FIORITTO. NO OUTSIDE OWNERSHIP, NO CORPORATIONS
JUST PERSONAL SERVICE THAT SETS US APART FROM OTHERS

Congratulations to Holy Rosary Church of Little Italy from SmartEd Services on the Commemoration of 100 Years of Faith and Fellowship.

Holy Rosary Church has served as the cornerstone for a community that is both rich in tradition and a dynamic resource for education, health care and culture.

May Holy Rosary Church continue to stand strong as a spiritual and educational foundation of our community for the next 100 years.

We give a special thank you to Fr. Philip G. Racco for his insightful leadership of and dedicated service to Holy Rosary Church, its parishioners and the Little Italy Community.

SmartEd SERVICES

a division of Cleveland Corporate Services, Inc.

Educational tools that engage and inspire.

800.251.4077 • www.teachsmart.org